

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF:

DALL'OSSO et al.

Application Serial No.: To be assigned

Title: **A DEVICE AND METHOD FOR  
SEPARATING AT LEAST ONE  
CONTINUOUS ROD OF FORMING  
MATERIAL FOR TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

Attorney Docket: 2545-0438

Group Art Unit: To be assigned

Examiner: To be assigned

Date: February 9, 2004

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please preliminarily amend the subject application as follows prior to fee calculation  
and examination: